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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/556,235	09/25/2006	Shinichi Fujisawa	AKIC126593	9088
26389 7590 02/09/2009 CHRISTENSEN, O'CONNOR, JOHNSON, KINDNESS, PLLC 1420 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 2800 SEATTLE, WA 98101-2347				
EXAMINER				
BLOUIN, MARK S				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/556,235

Applicant(s)

FUJISAWA, SHINICHI

Examiner

MARK BLOUIN

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/19/08
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment

- The reply filed on December 19, 2008 was applied to the following effect: Claims 1-11 were amended and Claims 12 and 13 were added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwata et al (US 5,524,104).
3. Regarding Claims 1,2, and 7, Iwata et al shows (Figs. 1-8) a disc device, comprising a pair of disc devices (9 and 15) combined vertically or horizontally, arranged in a half-height drive bay configured in a front face of an information device, a first bottom panel (the casing of disk drive (9) where the connecting means 18c and 18d are attached) of a first case of a first device of the pair of disc devices, a top panel (the casing of disk drive (15) where the connecting means 18b is attached) or a second bottom panel of a second case of a second device of the pair of disc devices, wherein at least one of the first or second cases has at least one threaded hole (12) at a side of the at least one case for mounting onto a main body of the information device and wherein the first bottom panel and the top panel or the second bottom panel are integrated by a connecting means (18) attached to the first bottom panel and the top panel or the second bottom panel.

4. Regarding Claims 3 and 8, Iwata et al shows (Figs. 1-8) the disc device, wherein the cases of a pair of disc devices (9 and 15) configured for combining are to be integrated by opposing the cases for having an outline being fitted in an opening of the drive bay (see figure 7).
5. Regarding Claims 4 and 9, Iwata et al shows (Figs. 1-8) the disc device, wherein bottom panels of the cases of the disc devices (9 and 15) are to be opposed to each other.
6. Regarding Claims 5 and 10, Iwata et al shows (Figs. 1-8) the disc device, wherein the outline of the case of single disc device has a thickness of 19 mm to 20.54 mm, and a width of 145.5 mm to 146.5 mm (Col 2, lines 26-49).
7. Regarding Claims 6 and 11, Iwata et al shows (Figs. 1-8) the disc device, wherein push.buttons (36,37,40) for loading/unloading a disc tray are provided at both side ends of a bezel.
8. Regarding Claim 12, Iwata et al shows (Figs. 1-8) the disc device, wherein the first device and the second device are integrated into a unit by the connecting means (18) fixed to the first bottom panel by at least one screw and at least one portion of the connecting means inserted into at least one slit of the top panel or the second bottom panel.
9. Regarding Claim 13, Iwata et al shows (Figs. 1-8) the disc device, wherein the first device (9) comprises a first disc tray having a first top surface for putting a first disc, the second device (15) comprises a second disc tray having a second top surface for putting a second disc, and the first top surface and the second top surface are opposed to each other.

Examiner's Note: The Examiner recommends adding limitations to the independent claims 1 and 7 describing the structural detail of the connecting means (5) clearly shown in Figure 4 of the Applicants drawings, and how they interconnect the disk drives once attached to the disk drive.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Blouin whose telephone number is 571-272-7583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:00 to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joe Feild, can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Mark Blouin/

Primary Examiner of Art Unit 2627

Mark Blouin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2627
February 5, 2009